

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling an aperture of a camera, comprising:

a first determining device that determines an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability which is required for capturing images, except during automatic exposure, automatic focus, electronic zoom, real-time displaying of a moving image, recording of the moving image, and recording of an image with low resolution due to reduced pixels;

a second determining device that determines an aperture range including an aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting; and

a controlling device that controls a diaphragm mechanism; the controlling device capable of setting the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting as determined by said second determining device when obtaining at least one of photometry data of automatic exposure and video signals of auto focus, and

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture within the aperture range determined by said first determining device when recording an image.

3-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A camera, comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm mechanism that adjusts an amount of light which enters the camera through said taking lens;

a first determining device that determines an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability which is required for capturing images, except during automatic exposure, automatic focus, electronic zoom, real-time displaying of a moving image, recording of the moving image, and recording of an image with low resolution due to reduced pixels;

a second determining device that determines an aperture range including an aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting; and

a controlling device for controlling the aperture of the diaphragm mechanism,

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture out of the aperture range for normal shooting as determined by said second determining device when obtaining at least one of photometry data of automatic exposure and video signals of auto focus, and

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture within the aperture range as determined by said first determining device when recording an image.

7-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling an aperture of a camera, comprising the steps of:

determining the aperture out of an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability when shooting in a low-resolution mode; and

controlling a diaphragm mechanism to use said aperture according to whether a shooting mode selected is the normal shooting mode or the low-resolution mode,

wherein said aperture is set within the normal shooting range in the normal shooting mode, and

wherein in order to increase brightness when shooting in the low-resolution mode, the aperture out of aperture range includes an aperture opening that is larger than that of the aperture opening in the normal shooting mode.

17. (Original) The method for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 16, wherein the aperture is used when a portrait mode is selected as the shooting mode.

18-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling an aperture of a camera, comprising:

a first determining device that determines an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability;

a second determining device that determines an aperture range including an aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting; and

a controlling device for controlling a diaphragm mechanism,

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture within the aperture range as determined by the first determining device when shooting in a high-resolution mode, and

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting as determined by said second determining device when shooting in a low-resolution mode,

wherein in order to increase brightness when shooting in the low-resolution mode, the aperture out of aperture range includes an aperture opening that is larger than the aperture opening of the aperture when shooting in the high-resolution mode.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 27, wherein the controlling device uses said second determining device when shooting in a portrait mode.

29-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A camera, comprising:
a taking lens;

a diaphragm mechanism that adjusts an amount of light entering the camera through a taking lens;

a first determining device that determines an aperture range for a normal shooting which secures predetermined optical capability;

a second determining device that determines an aperture range including an aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting;

a shooting mode setting device that sets a shooting mode; and

a controlling device for controlling the diaphragm mechanism

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture within the aperture range as determined by the first determining device when shooting in a high-resolution mode, and

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting when shooting in a low-resolution mode,

wherein in order to increase brightness when shooting in the low-resolution mode, the aperture out of aperture range includes an aperture opening that is larger than the aperture opening of the aperture when shooting in the high-resolution mode.

39. (Original) The camera as defined in claim 38, wherein the controlling device uses said second determining device when a portrait mode is selected by said shooting mode setting device.

40-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 2, wherein an operation of obtaining the at least one of the photometry data of the automatic exposure and the video signals of the auto focus is performed prior to shooting for recording of the image.

51. (Previously Presented) The camera as defined in claim 6, wherein an operation of obtaining the at least one of the photometry data of the automatic exposure and the video signals of the auto focus is performed prior to shooting for recording of the image.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 50, wherein the operation of obtaining the at least one of the photometry data of the automatic exposure and the video signals of the auto focus is performed by half-depressing a release button, and the shooting for the recording of the image is performed by fully depressing the release button.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 51, wherein the operation of obtaining the at least one of the photometry data of the automatic exposure and the video signals of the auto focus is performed by half-

depressing a release button, and the shooting for the recording of the image is performed by fully depressing the release button.

54. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling an aperture of a camera, comprising:

a first determining device that determines a first aperture range used for securing a predetermined optical capability ~~when shooting for recording an image which is required for capturing images, except during automatic exposure, automatic focus, electronic zoom, real-time displaying of a moving image, recording of the moving image, and recording of an image with low resolution due to reduced pixels;~~

a second determining device that determines a second aperture range including an aperture out of an aperture range of the first aperture range, the aperture in the second aperture range being used for obtaining at least one of photometry data of automatic exposure and video signals of auto focus; and

a controlling device for controlling the diaphragm mechanism,

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture in the second aperture range as determined by said second determining device, and

the controlling device capable of setting the diaphragm mechanism the aperture within the first aperture range as determined by said first determining device for recording the image.

55. (Currently Amended) A camera, comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm mechanism that adjusts an amount of light which enters the camera through said taking lens;

a first determining device that determines a first aperture range used for securing a predetermined optical capability ~~when shooting for recording an image~~ which is required for capturing images, except during automatic exposure, automatic focus, electronic zoom, real-time displaying of a moving image, recording of the moving image, and recording of an image with low resolution due to reduced pixels;

a second determining device that determines a second aperture range including an aperture out of an aperture range of the first aperture range, the aperture in the second aperture range being used for obtaining at least one of photometry data of automatic exposure and video signals of auto focus; and

a controlling device for controlling the diaphragm mechanism,

the controlling device capable of setting the aperture in the second aperture range as determined by said second determining device, and

the controlling device capable of setting the diaphragm mechanism the aperture within the first aperture range as determined by said first determining device for recording the image.

56. (New) The apparatus for controlling an aperture of a camera as defined in claim 2, wherein the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting is more than F 1.4 and less than F 2.8.

57. (New) The camera as defined in claim 6, wherein the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting is more than F 1.4 and less than F 2.8.

58. (New) The method for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 16, wherein the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting is more than F 1.4 and less than F 2.8.

59. (New) The apparatus for controlling the aperture of the camera as defined in claim 27, wherein the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting is more than F 1.4 and less than F 2.8.

60. (New) The camera as defined in claim 38, wherein the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting is more than F 1.4 and less than F 2.8.

61. (New) The apparatus for controlling an aperture of a camera as defined in claim 54, wherein the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting is more than F 1.4 and less than F 2.8.

62. (New) The camera as defined in claim 38, wherein the aperture out of the aperture range for the normal shooting is more than F 1.4 and less than F 2.8.